



BETTONGIA FASCIATA.

Bettongia fasciata Day.

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Banded Jerboa Kangaroo.

Spec. Char.—*B. vellere longo molli, saturatè fusco, pilis ad basin cinereis in medio albis; exindè ferrugineo-flavis, ad apicem saturatè fuscis; vellere corporis superioris pilis longis albis sericeis, crebrè adperso; dorso inferiore fuscis nigris vix conspicuis, transversim notato; spatio circumoculari flavescenti-fusco; tarsi, et artubus posticis externè flavido lavatis.*

Descr.—Fur long and soft; general colour deep brown grey at the base, white towards the apex of the hairs, and rusty yellow shaded into dark brown at the point; fur of the upper surface interspersed with numerous long silky white hairs; on the lower half of the back are about twelve or thirteen, not very defined, transverse black bands, each of which is bordered above with white, and below with rusty yellow; throat and under surface white; chin, muzzle, and a space round the eye yellowish brown; tarsi and outer side of the legs tinged with yellow; hair of the hands and base of the toes whitish; internal surface of the ears white; tail covered with short, adpressed, grizzled grey and white, or in parts black and white hairs; about an inch and a half of the apical portion covered with longer black hairs.

	Male.	
	feet.	inches.
Length from the tip of the nose to the extremity of the tail	2	4
„ of tail		10 $\frac{3}{4}$
„ „ tarsus and toes, including the nail		4 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ „ arms and hand, including the nails		3
„ „ face from the tip of the nose to the base of the ear		3
„ „ ear		1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Kangurus fasciatus, Peron et Leseur, Voy. aux Terres Australes, tom. i. p. 114; and Atlas, pl. 27.—Desm. Ency. Méth. Mamm., p. 274.

Kangaroo élégant, Cuv. Coll. de Paris.

Halmaturus elegans, Cuv. Règne Anim., tom. i. p. 187.

Hypsiprymnus Leseuri, Quoy et Gaim. ?

THREE specimens of this elegant little animal form part of the collection of the museum at Paris, which, as far as I am aware, are the only examples that have yet been brought to Europe: after a careful examination of them upon two different occasions, I believe that they form part of that division of the family to which Mr. Gray has assigned the generic title of *Bettongia*, and that the species is most nearly allied to *Bettongia rufescens* and *B. Graii*; at the same time it exhibits in the character of its hair, but not in the form and structure of its teeth, some affinity to the members of the genus *Lagorchestes*.

The Banded Jerboa Kangaroo is a native of Dirk Hartogs, and other islands situated off the western coast of Australia: it was there observed in great abundance by Peron, whose notes are here given as comprising all that is at present known respecting it:—

“ It inhabits the impenetrable low thickets, formed of a species of *Mimosa*, which are found in those islands; from these bushes it cuts away the lower branches and spines so as to form galleries communicating one with another, and where it takes refuge in time of danger. The females bring forth but one young at a time. Although abundant on the islands, none were to be found on the main land. These little Kangaroos, like all feeble animals which have neither the power of attack nor of defence, are extremely timid. The slightest noise caused them to take flight to the thick brushwood in which their galleries are constructed, and where it is impossible to pursue them; hence, although very common, they are difficult to procure.

“ The flesh of these animals is said to resemble that of the rabbit, but has a slight aromatic flavour, arising probably from the nature of the plants on which they feed, nearly all of which are fragrant.

“ All the females carried young in their pouch, and the devotedness with which they sought to save their offspring was truly admirable. Although wounded they flew with the young in the pouch, and never left them until, overcome with fatigue and loss of blood, they could no longer carry them; they then stopped, and squatting themselves on the hind legs, helped the young to get out of the pouch by means of the fore feet, and sought to place them in a situation favourable for retreat.”